Submitted in fulfilment of part of the requirements for the degree of Masters in Architecture (Professional) in the Faculty of Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology, the University of Pretoria, South Africa, 2009.

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by Maretha Perald, 27459595
music²

place of music
experience of music

extension & conversion of the department of music of the university of pretoria
brief

additions to - integration of - UP music department
method

extension - conversion
contextually - functionally - socially

method
new building - new place
- precinct serving music -
linked to campus & public

functional

all-inclusive program -
emphasising process of
music - preparation &
performance

social

increased variety of
people & places -
definition of programmed
& social spaces
conversion

contextual

undefined lost spaces
- integrated responsive places

functional

isolated monofunctional venues - integrated cross-programmed spaces

social

internal programmed & external undefined spaces
- system of programmed, transition & social spaces
new building - new place
- precinct serving music -
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Additions and alterations to the Department of Music of the University of Pretoria have long been overdue. While the Department’s academic expertise and enrolment numbers grow from strength to strength, its facilities become more and more inadequate and obsolete. In an era of information technology and multi-media at the click of a button, the performing arts constantly have to re-invent itself in an effort to keep participation and appreciation thereof alive. Integration of the existing amenities and a transformation of the current music environment are thus much needed in order for the Department to reflect its contemporary image, provide for sufficient exposure and bring it up to par with international music schools specialising in Western Art Music.

Music*: the intent of this dissertation is to establish a distinct place on Campus for the Music Department, its students and its listeners where creativity, inspiration and interaction can flourish with the purpose of intensifying the experience of music and exposing it to a more diverse audience.

On the Main Campus of the University of Pretoria in Hatfield, within the significant music precinct defined by the “aesthetic trio” of the Aula, the Musaion and the Amphitheatre, a new music school will be introduced. By extending and converting the existing music school on a contextual, functional and social level, this facility aims to provide a holistic solution to the dilemmas facing the Music Department.

While defining the south west corner of the precinct, the school will also establish contextual links to the public realm and the rest of Campus in an effort to re-energise the area and provide the Music Department with varied coverage. A series of robust and flexible interaction and performance spaces will further aid in the social transformation of the music school environment. An extended and integrated program will concentrate skill and creativity in a legible manner within the precinct to the benefit of students, academics and audiences.

The new music school will be the first of various gradual adaptations envisaged to revitalise the Music Department and the art of music.
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INTERVIEWS

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WEBSITES

to pieter, my parents and my friends

you supported and encouraged me every step of the way